



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

PHIL HARDBERGER

MAYOR

March 26, 2009

The Honorable Lamar Smith  
U.S. Congressman, District 21  
2409 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Smith:

I am writing to respectfully request your vital support for the Airport Sewage Disposal and Airport Ground Service Equipment Wash Rack Improvement project for the City of San Antonio. Phase I includes construction of a new Aircraft Sewage Disposal Station (triturator) with appropriate safeguards in accordance with FDA guidelines. Phase II includes conversion of the existing triturator unit into a "terminal area" Airport Ground Service Equipment (GSE) wash rack after a new Aircraft Sewage Disposal Station is constructed.

San Antonio International Airport airline users are responsible for disposing aircraft sewage. The current triturator unit does not have direct flow of waste materials into the sanitary sewer line and this necessitates the use of an electric pump. As a result, it does not function reliably and requires additional cleaning by airline personnel to maintain the area in accordance with FDA guidelines. A new Aircraft Sewage Disposal Station (triturator) would improve reliability and alleviate environmental concerns, as well as reduce plumbing and electrical maintenance costs. A new triturator unit would also permit conversion of the existing triturator unit into a "terminal area" Ground Service Equipment (GSE) wash rack, which would improve airline operational efficiencies by eliminating the need to drive all GSE approximately three miles to a remote wash rack.

The project described above will provide tangible benefits for the City of San Antonio – Aviation Department and airline users of the San Antonio International Airport facilities. A new direct, gravity-fed Aircraft Sewage Disposal Station will:

- Improve system reliability and efficiency,
- Alleviate environmental concerns resulting from potential back-up, clogging and spillage within the area,
- Reduce Aviation Department maintenance costs associated with plumbing and electrical components,
- Reduce energy consumption with the elimination of electrical pumps used to transfer roughly one million gallons of waste per year

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We are optimistic that this initiative will receive your endorsement and enthusiastic support. We truly believe in the significance and value of this project. Our optimal goal is to continuously keep up with the development and growth demands of San Antonio. I am grateful for your commitment as we move forward with this initiative.

Thank you for your admirable service to our community. I invite you to contact me if you have any questions, or if further clarification is required.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phil Hardberger". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Phil Hardberger, Mayor  
City of San Antonio